Erasmus:
Computing Science Stirling

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Education and Culture DG
Lifelong Learning Programme

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Overview

- **What** is the Erasmus Programme?

- **Why** should you participate?

- **Where** can you go?

- **How** can you apply?

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What?

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What is Erasmus?

European **R**egion **A**ction **S**cheme for the **M**obility of **U**niversity **S**tudents

- Forms part of the EU's Lifelong Learning Programme

- Managed in the UK by the British Council since 2007

- Largest organised mobility programme in the world

- Over 4,000 Higher Education institutions in 33 countries participate

- Introduced in 1987 to encourage student and staff mobility in the EU

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What Can You Do?

- Students can study 3-12 months in another European country as a part of their degree programme

- Students can also do a work placement which provides a good preparation for future employment

- Foreign University will provide modules in English and also give support

- ... however it is a good chance to learn another language and a different culture

Why?

Benefits for Students

- Stand out in the job market

- Gain life skills
- Acquire cultural understanding
- Adapt to new environments
- Learn a language
- Gain international experience

- Get a grant
- Earn credits

- Return more motivated, independent and confident

Financial Support

- All accepted students receive an Erasmus grant, typically in £, intended to support the **extra expenses** incurred in foreign study

- **3-400** €/month for the past 3 years: 70% initial grant, 30% final grant

- ... plus a final boost after all paperwork is returned to Erasmus [?]

- ... plus a top-up paid for the past 3 years: 153 €/month in 2010/2011 but it is not guaranteed so **do not depend on this money** [?]

- An Erasmus grant **does not need to be paid back**, and does not interfere with an SAAS award

- Stirling students **keep their Stirling status** and pay Stirling fees only

Application Procedure?

- Students selected by academic departments, not University
- 2F or better (in the main subjects) normally expected
- Computing Science is looking for 1-2 students for one or two semesters to go to Pisa or Bamberg
- Express interest to Ken Turner by **30th October**
- Computing Science interview applicants **early November**
- Selection by **Mid November**, followed by Erasmus application
- Everything definite a few months before the visit abroad

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Important Factors

- Deadlines and paperwork are **important**
- Missed deadlines or paperwork not returned typically result in payments delayed/suspended or student forced to return a grant
- If you return sooner than 3 months, you will have to return the entire grant
- **Motivation** and **commitment** are very important for an effective and enjoyable experience studying and living abroad

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Where?

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Where Can you Go?

- **Pilot** project
- First year for CS at Stirling
- Further developments expected!

Austria Belgium Bulgaria Cyprus Czech Republic Denmark Estonia Finland France Germany Greece Hungary Iceland Ireland Italy Liechtenstein Luxembourg Latvia Lithuania Netherlands Norway Malta Poland Portugal Romania Spain Sweden Slovakia Slovenia Turkey

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Pisa

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Province_of_Pisa

- The first CS department in Italy (1968)

- A strong teaching and research tradition (together with Scuola Superiore S. Anna and Scuola Superiore Normale)

- It has being running the Erasmus Programme for about 20 years: 10-15 incoming and 20-30 outgoing Erasmus students each year

- A welcoming historical city: 100,000 inhabitants, 30,000 students

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Pisa

- A large teaching offer in English
- An English speaking research environment
- Numerous PhD students from abroad
- Extra funds for intensive language courses

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Province_of_Pisa

9 ECTS I semester
Advanced programming
Architectural and design issues
  of wireless networks
Networks and technologies for
  telecommunications*

9 ECTS II semester
Models of computation
Distributed systems: paradigms and models
Network security
Programming tools for parallel
  and distributed systems
Network optimization methods
Numerical techniques for applications
Teletraffic engineering
Networking architectures,
  components and services
Networks and technologies for
  telecommunications*

6 ECTS I semester
Parallel and distributed algorithms
Information retrieval
Complements of distributed enabling platforms
Embedded systems
Laboratory of photonic systems
Networked virtual environments
Real time systems
Architectural and design issues of multimedia systems

6 ECTS II semester
Packet-switching and processing architectures
Laboratory of distributed software design
Methods for the specification and verification of business processes
Security issues in web applications
Performance of multimedia networks
Peer to peer systems
Formal methods for security
Software verification methods

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Bamberg

- One of the oldest and newest universities in Bavaria: originally founded in 1647, re-established in 1979

- Specialities include Information Systems and Applied Computer Science

- Has been participating in the Erasmus programme for many years

- Bamberg is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, famous for its beer,

- 70,000 inhabitants, 10,000 students

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Bamberg

- Semester system: Winter (mid-Oct - Feb), Summer (mid Apr - July)

- Around 30 modules available taught in English (upon request); additional modules available taught in German with English exams

- Topics include: Communication Systems and Networks; Software Technologies and Programming Languages; Foundations of Computer Science; Computing in the Cultural Sciences; Cognitive Systems; Distributed Systems; Human Computer Interaction, ...

- three week preparatory course available, includes German language course and excursion programme

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How?

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Erasmus Grant Example

- **Hypothetical example based on 2010/11**:
  - John Doe goes to University of Granada for 4.0 months, which equates to a grant of 1200ish EUR.
  - His Initial Grant of **840** EUR is paid soon after he starts his exchange.
  - In May the 'top up' of 153 EUR per month was announced, adjusting John's overall Erasmus grant from 900 EUR to 1512 EUR.
  - In the summer, John's Final Grant is paid to him, comprising of the remaining 30% of his Initial Grant (1200–840=360 EUR) + the 'top up' (153 EUROS * 4 months=612 EUR)=972 EUR

Initial Grant (630 EUR) + Final Grant (882 EUR) = 1512 EUR

Erasmus Paperwork - 1

1.0 Covering letter explaining your Erasmus grant
Action: Read carefully

1.1 Erasmus Grant Contract
Action: Read carefully, complete, sign p. 3, return

Erasmus Paperwork - 2

1.3 – SA1 ECTS Learning Agreement form
Action: Agree module choices with Department coordinator

Erasmus Paperwork - 3

1.4 – Student Awards Agency Scotland letter
Action: You may choose to forward this letter to your funding agency

1.5 – SA2 ECTS Registration Confirmation form
Action: Take with you on exchange, complete while abroad, and return

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Erasmus Paperwork - 4

1.6 – SA3 Grade Report Form
Action: Will determine Stirling-equivalent grades

1.7 – ERASMUS Student Report Form
Action: At the end of your exchange, complete an online survey about your Erasmus experience

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Erasmus Paperwork - 5

1.8 – Attendance Certificate
Action: Have signed, stamped and dated by representative at Erasmus destination on completion of exchange

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Further Information

- A general video:
  http://ec.europa.eu/education/video/eac-infospotlist.htm

- A video about Erasmus exchange at Strasbourg: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhvnzGnUDo0

- **Stirling page:**
  http://www.stir.ac.uk/erasmus

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